lakh per unit. There is a target of 50 G&P factories per year. Wide publicity is given for obtaining proposals from the industry. So far, 127 proposals for modernization of G&P factories have been sanctioned. One proposal has been received from Andhra Pradesh.

Indo-Nepal working group for identifying areas of co-operation in tourism

3324. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have agreed to set up a Working Group to identify areas of co-operation in tourism which may include combined tourism circuits, co-operation in infrastructure developments and joint marketing of tourism products;

(b) if so, whether both the countries have also signed a tourism agreement which would provide a task force for implementation and review progress once in six months; and

(c) if so, what are the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposals sent by Government of Rajasthan for development of tourism

3325. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals sent by Government of Rajasthan for development of tourism and total amount sought for this purpose from the Central Government; and

(b) the total amount to be provided by Government to implement these proposals and by when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Twenty tourism projects of Rajasthan with Central financial component of Rs. 355.40 lakhs have been prioritised during 2001-2002. The project proposals have not been received from the Rajasthan Government so far.

(b) Prioritised projects are sanctioned and funds released on receipt of detailed proposals from the State Governments based on the merits of the projects and availability of funds.

Protection of rice field at Kalibangan, Rajasthan

3326. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled, "ASI let geography bill a precious piece of history", which appeared in the Indian Express of 29th March, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the reasons for not making necessary efforts to protect the earliest rice field at Kalibangan in Hanumangarh district in Rajasthan well before it was excavated?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware.

(b) & (c) Kalibangan was excavated over 1961—69 and protected as a site of National Importance. The prc-Harappan ploughed field in the site is now covered with an Alkathenc sheet over which a layer of earth has been placed.

Preservation of seven mummies in different museums

3327. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of seven mummies in museums in Lucknow, Hyderabad, Baroda, Kolkata, Mumbai, Jaipur and Manipal is deteriorating.

(b) whether it is also a fact that a preservation expert of Cairo Museum, Egypt has been consulted in the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the measures proposed to preserve the mummies?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.